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# Hannah's Story

## A University Partner Success Story

### Tell us about yourself

Hi! I'm Hannah, an 18-year-old from South Korea. I'm currently studying the Foundation course at University of Auckland International College here in New Zealand, aiming to finish this December.

### Could you tell us about your academic background and your journey?

Absolutely! I attended Foreign Language High School in South Korea, and although I scored a 6.0 on the IELTS, I hadn't completed enough academic subjects in high school to directly enter the standard Foundation course. Therefore, I started with the Foundation Connect course in July 2023, which was designed to bridge the gap in my academic preparation. This course was somewhat easier and helped me adjust to the academic demands here. I'm now enrolled in the regular Foundation course and aiming to complete it by December. This pathway has been crucial in preparing me for my future studies in law and accounting at the University of Auckland.

### What made you choose New Zealand for your studies?

New Zealand is famous for its incredible natural beauty and clean air. I heard about University of Auckland International College from a study abroad agent in Korea. They pitched it as the ideal spot for international students to get ready for university life. Also, about Auckland, it is a brilliant city for hanging out. There's always something to do, especially around the harbour where you can grab a bite with friends.

## Student Profile

### STUDENT NAME

Hannah Hwang

### NATIONALITY

South Korean

### PROGRAMME

The University of  
Auckland  
Certificate in Foundation  
Studies (Standard)

### INTAKE

February 2024

### UNIVERSITY

### DESTINATION

University of Auckland,  
Bachelor of Arts (Law)  
and Bachelor of  
Commerce (Accounting)

### How did your parents feel about your studying abroad alone?

My parents were very worried at first about me being all by myself overseas. So, what I did was, I made sure to video call them every day to show them how I'm doing. I told them all about how friendly and kind both my schoolmates and homestay family are to me. It puts their minds at ease, knowing I'm safe and happy here. I'm staying with a Korean homestay family, which is lovely because I get to have Korean food, and it feels a bit like home. It makes the whole experience a lot easier, and it's nice to have a piece of home away from home.

### Were there any subjects you found particularly challenging?

I attended a foreign language high school back in Korea, I was quite used to conversing in English, so that part wasn't too hard for me. However, diving into accounting here was a bit tricky. It was full of new stuff like graphs, which were completely new to me.

But the teachers here are very supportive; they go out of their way to make sure we grasp everything. I also formed a study group with my classmates. We'd meet up and help each other out. It was tough at first, but I was able to pass my exams!

### How do you find the educational experience here compared to Korea?

It's quite different! Back home, it's more about rote learning, but here it's about applying what we learn through activities. It's less about just stuffing knowledge into your head and more about actually doing stuff with what you learn. It's a lot more effective and prepares us better for higher education. It is perfect for gearing up for higher education.

### What are your plans after the foundation course?

After this, I plan to study law and accounting at the University of Auckland. I'm fascinated by how laws impact society and I reckon studying law at such a reputable university will set me up nicely for my future plans of living overseas. Looking ahead, I'm buzzing about starting at the University of Auckland to study law and accounting. I'm all set for university life and can't wait to dive into my majors.

### What about your social experiences? How easy was it to make friends?

Initially, it was tough being the only Korean in the Foundation programme. I felt quite lonely. But after a bit, I made friends from various places like Vietnam, Russia, and China. Everyone is really friendly and eager to practice English, which makes it a lot easier to connect. And, of course, my friends absolutely love Korean food, so we often hit up Korean restaurants!

### Any advice for others considering studying at the University of Auckland International College?

Definitely! If you're thinking about it, just go for it. Here is a safe and supportive place to study. The education system here is fantastic, with teachers who genuinely care about your success. Plus, it's a great way to improve your English and prepare for the global stage. So, don't hesitate—come join us!



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**HANNAH IS SHAPING HER FUTURE.**

To shape yours, enrol with UP Education, New Zealand.

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